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25X1A

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY

Korea

DATE DISTR

2 August 1950

SUBJECT

1. Activities in Seoul

NO. OF PAGES

1

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2. Activation of 8 Division, NEPA

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Seoul exchange rate on 16 July was eight South Korean won to one North Korean won in department stores, 66 South Korean won to one North Korean won in the free market.
2. On 13 July CHO So Ang and a woman assembly member, PAK Sun Chun talked on the radio to the Seoul population. Later, the People's Army announced that the UN turned down a South Korean plea for help and that the complete liberation of Korea will occur when the People's Army takes Pusan. North Korean propaganda claims that air raids are only scattered remnants of the South Korean Air Force. However, the people believe that the U.S. is helping South Korea. The People's Army was ordered to gain the friendship of the South Korean people and was told not to interfere with them.
3. Large pictures of Stalin and KIM Il-sung are displayed in front of the Chosen Bank. The Chinese are displaying the North Korean flag in front of their shops and pictures of KIM in the windows.
4. Former political prisoners are now policing Seoul, armed with small Soviet-made rifles (not carbines).
5. No tanks were observed in Seoul on 16 July.
6. Members of the 8 Route Army (Chinese) were observed in Seoul in People's Army uniforms. Because they speak little Korean, they try to avoid conversation.
7. The 8 Division of the North Korean People's Army was activated on 15 July at Wonju from members of the 5 Railway Brigade Security Force with additional recruits. The commander is O Paek-yong, the former CO of the 1 Regiment, 2 Division People's Army. He holds the rank of senior lieutenant in the Soviet army and returned to North Korea from the USSR in 1945. He was Section Chief in the People's Army when it was first organized; he is about 46 years old. The Chief of Staff is HAN Cheng, former Commander of the 5 Railway Brigade Security Force in Pyongyang; he was trained in Yenan. The division headquarters are at Chongju.

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